Appln. No.: 10/606,076

Amdt. dated December 13, 2004

Reply to Office action of September 24, 2004

REMARKS

Claim 1, 2 and 5-8 remain in the application. Claim 1 is independent.

The Abstract has been amended to insert reference numbers for the two embodiments.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that flanges 40 extend from the pocket and engage opposite sides of the core 24 and that the deviation 36 extends about the pocket. Neither of the references suggest flanges extending from the pocket and engaging the faces of the core nor deviations extending about the pocket between the flanges. The '349 patent to Nagao et al merely shows two parallel flanges 17a and 18a for engaging the manifold, i.e., there are no additional flanges engaging the faces of the core 1. Nor is there any deviation extending between such flanges, i.e., between the faces of the core 1. The '103 patent to Tokutake does not even suggest a pocket surrounding the manifold, let alone a pair of flanges extending from that pocket and engaging the faces of the core A Nor does. Tokutake suggest the deviation extending between the flanges. Clearly, the structure claimed in claim 1 is more specific and not suggested by the disclosure in the references.

Additionally, claim 2 more specifically defines the invention by reciting that the deviation extends into the flanges that are engaging the faces of the core. Claim 8 is yet more specific by reciting the projection extending circularly about the manifold and the recess extending about the pocket to engage the projection, clearly not suggested by the references.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Application, as amended, is now presented in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited. Applicant believes that no fees are due, however, if any become required, the Commissioner is

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hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account 08-2789. Further and favorable reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted

HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.

December 13, 2004
Date

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this Amendment for U.S. Serial No.: 10/606,076 filed June 25, 2003, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on December 13, 2004.

Anne L. Kubit